STS Research Agenda Task Force: Survey Results

Objective

As part of our charge to provide STS members with recommended areas for exploration in science and technology library research, we sent out a survey in the Fall of 2014. The 258 responses helped create a snapshot of what areas are currently being researched and what could be important areas of future research.

Survey Demographics

86% currently employed as science and technology librarians

52% tenured/tenure-track; 43% non-tenure track; 5% other

40% institution requires research; 30% encourage it; 30% do not require librarians to do research

48% at institutions of FTE 20,000+; 18% had FTE of 10,000 or fewer

70% work at a Doctoral/Research University

63% of respondents are members of ACRL STS

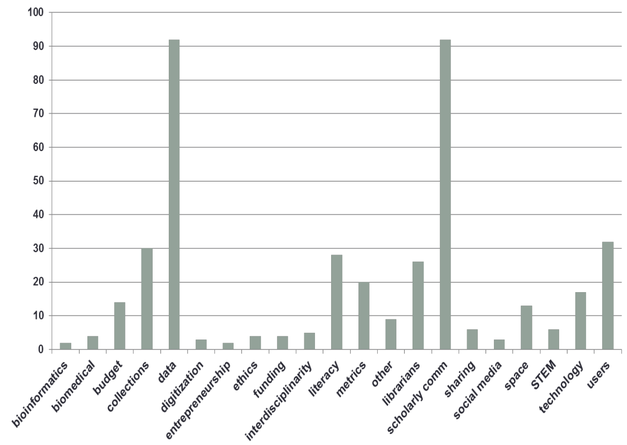
Key Results

What else are you interested in learning more about?

Have you conducted research in the following areas?

Answer	Response	%
Instruction	74	39.36%
Scholarly Communication	36	19.15%
Sci/Tech Information Literacy	34	18.09%
Metrics/Assessment	33	17.55%
Databases and Searching	31	16.49%
Data/E-Science	29	15.43%
Outreach/Engagement	27	14.36%
Liaison Work	25	13.30%
Collection Analysis	23	12.23%
Open Access/Copyright	22	11.70%
Collection Development	22	11.70%
Professional Development	20	10.64%
Services to Specific Populations	19	10.11%
Library Administrative Issues	18	9.57%
Employment and Work Issues	17	9.04%
Usability	15	7.98%
Mobile Services	10	5.32%
Social Media	9	4.79%
Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery	6	3.19%
Ethics	5	2.66%
Other	14	7.45%
No	37	19.68%

What are 3 topics that will influence sci/tech librarianship in the next 10 years?



Recommendations

The Research Agenda should be well-defined so that users understand what the purpose is and how to use it.

The Research Agenda should be formally revised every five years.

The task force should create a list of journals to support the Research Agenda, as an aid to publication on the research questions.

STS should create a digital "collaboratory" to house the Research Agenda and allow members to discuss future research collaborations.

The research areas should be defined and the sub-areas turned into potential research questions.

STS should promote the Research Agenda through its programs and other resources.

STS Research Agenda Task Force: Andrea Baruzzi, Nestor Osorio, Roxanne Bogucka, Laura Eiford, Melissa Gold, Karen Grigg, Nirmala Gunapala, Patricia Hartman, Jeanne Hoover, Catherine Lantz, Sara Gonzalez, Kelli Trei. Accompanying documents can be found here: http://bit.ly/1J7WSYs